

**TABLE 1 – Annual Comparisons**

Criteria	2003	2002	2001	Highest Total
Number of Species	268	265	257	269 (1996)
Number of Birds	519,342	545,759	520,970	593,680 (1996)
Number of Participating Counties	93	99	101	102 (2 yrs)
Number of Observers	1350	1473	1430	1611 (1997)
Number of Party Miles Walked	2027	2227	2459	2628 (1995)
Number of Party Miles Driven	21,782	23,802	23,942	23,942 (2001)
Total Number of Party Miles	23,809	26,029	26,401	26,401 (2001)
Number of Party Hours Walked	2647	3094	3120	3457 (1997)
Number of Party Hours Driven	1919	2135	1957	2140 (1998)
Total Number of Party Hours	4566	5229	5077	5565 (1995)
No. of Species in 90 or more Counties	33	47	52	55 (1996)
No. of Counties with 100 or more species	69	70	69	80 (1997)
No. of Counties with 20 or more observers	20	22	19	24 (1998)
Highest Species Total in Single County	192	177	184	205 (1983)
Average # of species/participating County	120	116	113	122 (1999)
Average # of species for all 102 counties	110	113	112	120 (1999)

partly cloudy or mostly sunny skies. The only rain reported, except for the central Illinois storms, was light morning showers in the northern counties and a few scattered showers statewide in the evening. Morning breezes, except for the storm zone, were generally from the south at less than 10 mph; however, in the northeastern counties, the wind was coming in off the lake (from an easterly direction). In the northern counties the calm breezes continued throughout the day while in the central and southern counties they increased to 15-25 mph.

For participants in six counties (Clinton, Jo Daviess, Kendall, Knox, Madison and Mercer), this year's count day began at midnight; for participants in 11 more counties it had begun by 3 a.m. In total, 69 (74%) of the participating counties had observers in the field prior to 5:30 a.m. (the approximate "magic time" for dawn). Only 19 counties (20%) had participants that continued birding (owling) beyond dusk. One of the most disappointing aspects of this year's count was that reports were received from only 93 of the state's 102 counties; this is the lowest number of participating counties since 1993 and prior to that, 1984. On the positive side,

74% of the counties (69) reported 100 or more species this year compared with only 69% last year.

### Highest county counts

Since count day was as late in May as it possibly could be, it was naturally expected that the northern counties would achieve the highest species totals; they didn't disappoint us. Cook County took honors for first place this year with 192 species reported by its 110 observers in 51 parties. Lake County, 181 species and Carroll County, 179 species came in second and third, respectively. The other counties with counts of 150 species or more were: Clinton (167), Union (167), La Salle (166), Will (166), Du Page (165), McHenry (164), Knox (163), Winnebago (163), Champaign (162), Mason (162), Sangamon (158), Brown (157), Massac (157), Kane (156), and Rock Island (151). Seven additional counties reported 140 or more species. Of the 18 counties with 150 or more species, 10 (56%) were in the northern quarter of the state, 6 (33%) were in the central half of the state; and 2 (11%) were in the southern quarter of the state. Only 11 counties reached the 150 species level in 2002. The state record for the highest number of

**TABLE 2**

### Counties with 20 or more Participants

Cook	110	La Salle	29
Du Page	101	McDonough	29
Schuyler	58	Jo Daviess	28
Kane	50	Knox	27
McHenry	50	Boone	25
Lake	47	Kankakee	23
Will	44	Crawford	22
Champaign	37	Logan	22
Winnebago	33	Adams	21
Kendall	30	Edgar	21

species in a single county (set in 1983) is still 205.

### Tables

**Table 1** provides the annual comparisons; it compares the 2003 results with those of the two previous years and the "record" year. The 2003 totals in Table 1, when compared with 2002, were attained with 6 fewer counties, 120 fewer observers, 2200 fewer party miles and 660 fewer party hours of observation—numbers which ranged from 9-15% less than those of 2002. Although 2003 turned out to be a very good year, it was not a record-setting year for any of the Table 1 listings. The 268 accepted species ties the 1997 total for second best and missed the 1996 record (269) by only one species. It is possible that 2003, in reality, was the record-setting year for total species because at least one (perhaps more) "probable" species were disqualified from the count for lack of sufficient documentation. The Great-tailed Grackle, another new count species, was well-documented (including photographs). In a few instances reports of other species were also disqualified in some counties for lack of documentations.

This year's million-plus birds were only 75,000 fewer than the record total, 26,000 fewer than last year's total, and almost identical with the 2001 total. Only three of the Table 1 categories (Number of